

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Whitney Phillips 202-226-8555

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**HERSETH SANDLIN STATEMENT ON USDA'S FARM INCOME AND EXPORTS FORECAST**

**Net Farm Income to Rise 24 Percent in 2010**

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□ **September 3, 2010**- U.S. Representative Herseth Sandlin released the following statement in response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's recent release of the 2010 Farm Income Forecast and Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade.

"The forecast shows strong recovery in the agricultural sector and reinforces the importance of the 2008 Farm Bill, helping producers to capitalize on market conditions and significantly increase agricultural exports this year and next," Representative Herseth Sandlin said.

Herseth Sandlin spoke with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack this week regarding the encouraging news and how to build on the success of the bipartisan 2008 Food, Conservation and Energy Act, more commonly referred to as the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill plays an instrumental role in shaping agriculture policy and practice – and is the most important single piece of legislation affecting South Dakota producers, families and businesses. Herseth Sandlin helped craft the Farm Bill as a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Overall, USDA projects net farm income will reach \$77.1 billion in 2010, a rise of 24 percent from 2009. The 2010 forecast is also \$12.3 billion more than the average of \$64.8 billion in net farm income earned each year over the previous decade. In addition, average farm household

income is projected to reach \$81,670, a 5.8 percent rise from 2009. Regarding agricultural exports, USDA forecasts that in the current fiscal year, which ends this month, exports will be \$107.5 billion, a rise of \$11.1 billion. Moreover, USDA forecasts that in the coming fiscal year starting October 1<sup>st</sup> agricultural exports will reach \$113 billion, a rise of \$5.5 billion, mostly related to larger grain and feed shipments, which are projected to increase by \$4.3 billion.

The USDA Farm Income Forecast can be found at <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Features/FarmIncome> and the Agricultural Trade Outlook at <http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/current/AES/AES-08-31-2010.pdf>

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